

Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center: St. John Vianney Preschool		Enrollment: 52	License ID: 4182000084
Street: 4097 18th St	City: Bettendorf	IA Zip Code: 52722	County: Scott
Mailing Address: 4097 18th St			
Mailing City: Bettendorf		IA Zip Code: 52722	
Director's Name: Christy Barnum		Center Phone Number: 563-332-5308	
On-Site Supervisors: same		E-Mail Address: preschool@stjohnvianneybettendorf.	

Date of Complaint: 12/9/2013

Date of Visit: 12/12/2013

☐ Scheduled ☒ Unannounced ☐ NA

☐ Non-Compliance with Regulations Found ☒ Compliance with Regulations Found ☐ NA

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

[X] NO CHANGES to licensing status recommended

[] **PROVISIONAL** license from _____ to _____

[] SUSPENSION of License

[] **REVOCATION of License**

Summary of Complaint:

Concerns reported that the preschool does not honor the "open door" policy for parents.

Concerns that the director of the preschool "grabbed a student's arm harshly and whipped/pulled the student around" because the student was not paying attention.

Complaints that the director/teacher "yells" at the children.

It is noted that some of the reported concerns involved the 2012/2013 school year and were just reported now.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.12(2) a-d Discipline does not allow - corporal punishment; punishment that causes humiliation, fear, pain or discomfort; locking children in an area or using mechanical restraints; associating with illness, toilet training, food or rest; or the use of verbal abuse, threats, or derogatory remarks about a child's family.

NO VIOLATION

109.4(6) Parents shall have unlimited access to their children and to the provider caring for their children during the center's hours of operation or whenever their children are in the care of the provider, unless parental contact is prohibited by court order.

NO VIOLATION

Inspection Findings:

An unannounced licensing visit was completed at the preschool on 12/12/13. A general discussion took place with the preschool director, Christy Barnum, about some recent unrest at the preschool. A second visit was scheduled at the preschool on 1/13/14 to discuss concerns further with Father McAleer along with the director.

The preschool director and Father McAleer were familiar with the reported concerns as they had both had conversations and email correspondence with parents on the same issues. Both stated the concerns had also been reported to the Davenport Diocese Superintendent of Schools (parochial schools), and they had met with him on these issues as well. The director and Father McAleer indicated some general interpersonal concerns between the preschool and the lead teacher for the three year old program. This staff

person has now left the preschool, and the preschool is in the process of hiring a new teacher. Father McAleer and the director indicated that several of the parents are upset about this teacher leaving and much of this has stemmed from that situation and concerns that the parents had been drawn into the issues that existed between that teacher and the director/preschool.

Father McAleer stated when this all started last school year he observed both classrooms on two occasions from the hallway windows where he was not easily visible. He stated this was after Ms. Moran came to him with concerns about Ms. Barnum's style of discipline. It is noted that Ms. Moran and Ms. Barnum each have entirely separate classrooms and are the lead teachers for their classrooms. Father McAleer stated he pulled together a team consisting of an outside consultant and a former AEA person along with three of the preschool staff including Ms. Moran and Ms. Barnum to attempt to resolve the issues. Father McAleer stated he also sat in the classrooms on 11/13/13 to observe.

Father McAleer stated he has not had concerns regarding Ms. Barnum's interaction with the children. Ms. Barnum denies that she has mishandled the children on any occasion but states that her style is different than that of Ms. Moran's. Both stated that they had concerns about the amount of time Ms. Moran was requesting that parents be involved in the classroom activities (basically that parents would always be in the classroom) and felt that it was actually creating more chaos than being helpful at times. Father McAleer stated when he observed it appeared that the parents would actually be doing prep work that the children could have done themselves as part of the activity itself to further increase their own skills, etc. Ms. Barnum stated she has never told a parent they can not come to the preschool, however, it is clear that she does make suggestions as to when she would prefer parents to come in if they choose to volunteer or want to help out in the classroom.

Special Notes and Action Required:

At this time there is not evidence to indicate any clear licensing violations relative to this complaint. Discussion occurred regarding ensuring healthy and appropriate communication can occur between the preschool and the families as well as between the director and staff members as to the expectations regarding how the preschool classrooms will operate. More consistency in this area between the two rooms may alleviate the potential for animosity or misunderstanding to develop. This would also likely help children and families more smoothly transition from one room to the next.

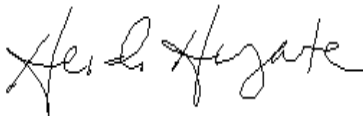
It appears that Father McAleer has provided oversight to the preschool when concerns were reported to him. The preschool has since outlined more clearly specific policies for how staff and parents communicate in that in all communications should go through the preschool phone/email rather than staff's personal phone/email. The staff and parents have been informed of this expectation. The licensing consultant has not observed concerning behavior at any of the licensing or off year visits that have occurred at the center. Father McAleer stated the preschool is in the process of hiring a new teacher for the three year old program and that the preschool has scheduled a meet and greet for the families to meet the new teacher.

General discussion did occur regarding incident reporting and reminding the preschool that it is required that parents be notified on the day of an incident (or immediately if an emergency situation) and that the parent must also receive a written report. Parent(s) should sign the report and the written report shall document that the parent was notified on the same date as the incident.

There are no further actions relative to this report required at this time.

Heidi Hungate, MSW
DHS Child Care Licensing Consultant

Consultant's Signature:



Date:

02/18/2014